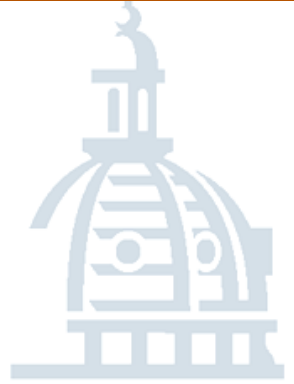




# The Iowa State Capitol: A Self-Guided Tour



Attractions are numbered and described below. Floor maps on the other side show location of attractions.

For more than a century, the golden dome of the Iowa State Capitol has been a symbol of Iowa government and politics. The 23-karat, gold-covered dome rises 275 feet above the Capitol grounds. The gold leaf covering the dome is so thin that 250,000 sheets pressed together would measure only one inch thick. The most recent re-gilding began in 1998 and was completed in 1999 at a cost of approximately \$400,000.

Construction of the Capitol began in 1871. The Capitol was dedicated in 1884 and completed in 1886. The structure of the Capitol is built of brick and faced with limestone, granite, and sandstone. It measures 363 feet, eight inches north to south—and 246 feet, 11 inches east to west. In addition to serving as the seat of Iowa government, the Capitol is a showcase for artwork, woodcarving, artifacts, and decorative wall and ceiling painting and stenciling. The building's interior is furnished with 29 types of marble as well as a variety of woods.

## FIRST FLOOR

**\*The Governor's Office** is a four-room suite. Several of the original furnishings and decorations are still in use, dating back to 1885, when Governor Buren Sherman became the first occupant of the office. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor currently have their formal offices here, which are ornately decorated. **The Governor's Reception Room (Room 109) is the only room of the Governor's Suite available for public tours (please stay within the roped areas).**

A collection of dolls depicting Iowa's former first ladies (and current first lady) in their inaugural gowns is displayed near the Governor's Office. Above the doll case is one of the world's largest reproduction photographs. The photograph, measuring 26 feet long and six feet high, shows the Rainbow Division, 168th Infantry, after its return from France in 1919.

The four cases around the rotunda once held approximately 140 Civil War battle flags. The Civil War flags are being stabilized in the State Historical Museum. The northeast case contains the one Civil War flag to come back to the Capitol. The kiosk near the case relates the story of the battle flag project.

A model of the battleship U.S.S. *Iowa* is on display near the rotunda. The model is 18 feet seven inches long and weighs approximately 1,350 pounds. It is on loan from the U.S. Navy Department.

One of the battleship's two bells, weighing 1,000 pounds, is located near the model.

**\*The Iowa Constitution** is on display in the **office of the Secretary of State**. The Iowa Constitution, signed in 1857, was restored in 1988 and is protected in a specifically designed case.

In the **Old Supreme Court Chamber**, Iowa's justices heard cases for nearly 120 years until the new Judicial Building was completed in 2003. The large, elaborately carved mahogany bench specifically built for the chamber remains in place. This room now serves as a committee room for the House of Representatives.

## SECOND FLOOR

The marble and granite Grand Stairway, down which Iowa's governors in previous years have led their official parties to begin inaugural balls in the rotunda, connects the first and second floors.

Above the Grand Stairway, covering the entire wall, is the mural painting *Westward*, by Edwin H. Blashfield of New York. The mural symbolizes pioneers' arrival in Iowa.

Above *Westward*, in arched panels, are six mosaics made of small pieces of glass tile. The mosaics, by Frederick Dielman of New York, symbolize Defense, Charities, the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches of Iowa, and Education.

At the top of the stairway on the south wall is a painting of a basket of corn by Floyd V. Brackney, a native of Marshall County Iowa. The painting named *Plenty*, was the center of the Iowa Exhibit at the Pan-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco in 1915.

The chambers of the **Iowa House of Representatives** and the **Iowa Senate**, occupy most of the second floor. Here, the state's 50 senators and 100 representatives meet during the annual Legislative Session of the Iowa General Assembly, to create Iowa laws.

The Legislative Session convenes at the Iowa State Capitol on the second Monday in January each year. Legislative terms run two years for representatives and four years for senators. Each session lasts for approximately 100 days.

A fire in 1904 destroyed the ceiling in the House Chamber, necessitating extensive restoration. Portions of the Supreme Court Chamber below were also damaged.

The fire is said to have been started by a workman's candle. Several of the original furnishings and artwork are still in place in both chambers, which are elegantly decorated and feature beautiful woodwork and marble. But because of the 1904 fire, the artwork on the chamber ceiling of the House is not original.

**The State Library of Iowa—Law Library** occupies the entire west wing of the second floor and contains over 100,000 volumes. A circular staircase of iron grillwork at each end of the library, leads to four tiers of law books and court decisions from each state and the federal government. Also included in the library's collection are legal periodicals and

materials produced by the Iowa Legislature.

## THE ROTUNDA

Some of the most striking artwork in the Capitol is visible from the rotunda on the second floor.

At the base of the dome are eight half-moon-shaped paintings and 12 statues. The paintings—called lunettes, tell the story of the "Progress of Civilization," and, starting to the right of the Law Library entrance, represent Hunting, Herding, Agriculture, the Forge, Commerce, Education, Science, and Art. The lunettes were painted by Kenyon Cox of New York. The statues, the work of S. Cottin, begin north of the library. They represent History, Science, Law, Fame, Literature, Industry, Peace, Commerce, Agriculture, Victory, Truth, and Progress.

Suspended across the dome is the emblem of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.). The emblem, painted on canvas and suspended on wire, was placed there as a reminder of Iowa's efforts to preserve the Union during the Civil War. A painted sky with clouds was added to the interior of the dome during recent Capitol renovations.

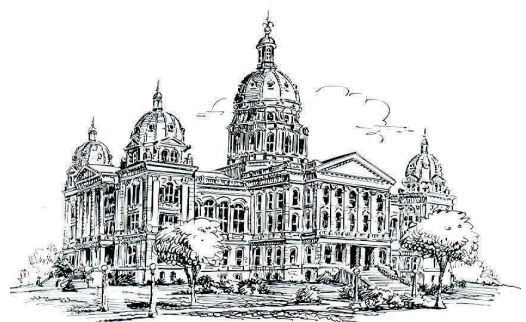
## GROUND FLOOR

The Iowa State Capitol Tour Guide station and the Capitol Gift Shop are located on the northwest corner of the rotunda on the ground floor.

A cafeteria and public restrooms are located on this floor.

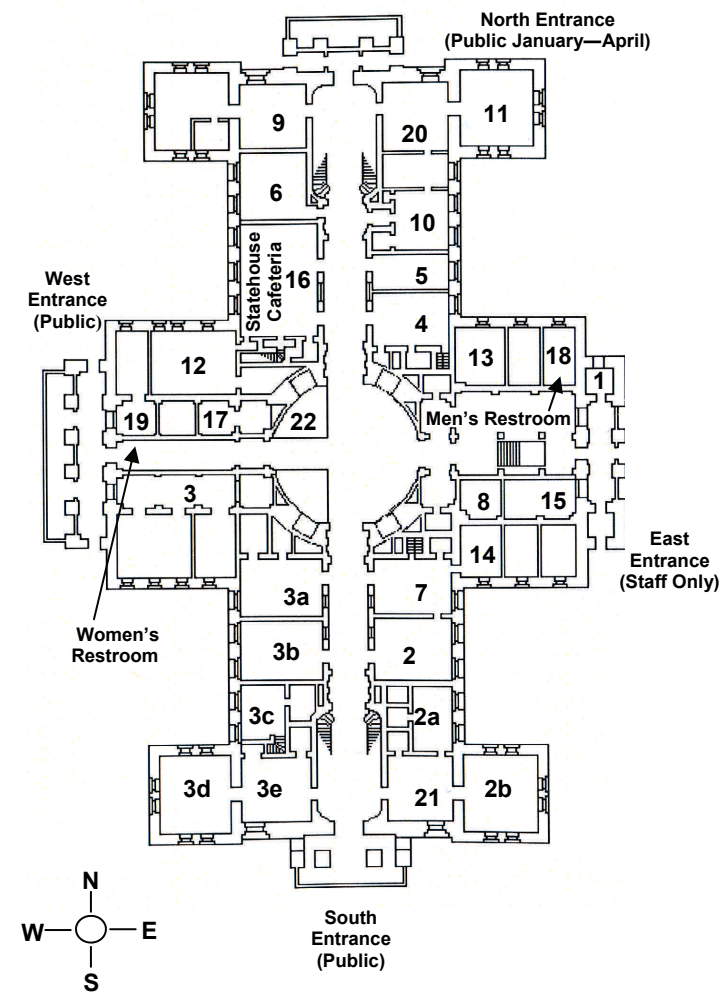
The Legislative Services Agency, which provides bill drafting, legal and fiscal research services, computer services, and assists the Legislature in the budgeting and appropriations process, and the Legislative Information Office, which provides information to the public regarding the Iowa Legislature, are also located on the ground floor.

**\*These rooms are not accessible on Saturdays. The Capitol is closed on Sundays and holidays. For further information regarding tours, the Iowa State Capitol, and the Iowa General Assembly, please go to the Iowa General Assembly Website: [www.legis.iowa.gov](http://www.legis.iowa.gov)**



# Maps for Self-Guided Iowa State Capitol Tour

## IOWA STATE CAPITOL—GROUND FLOOR



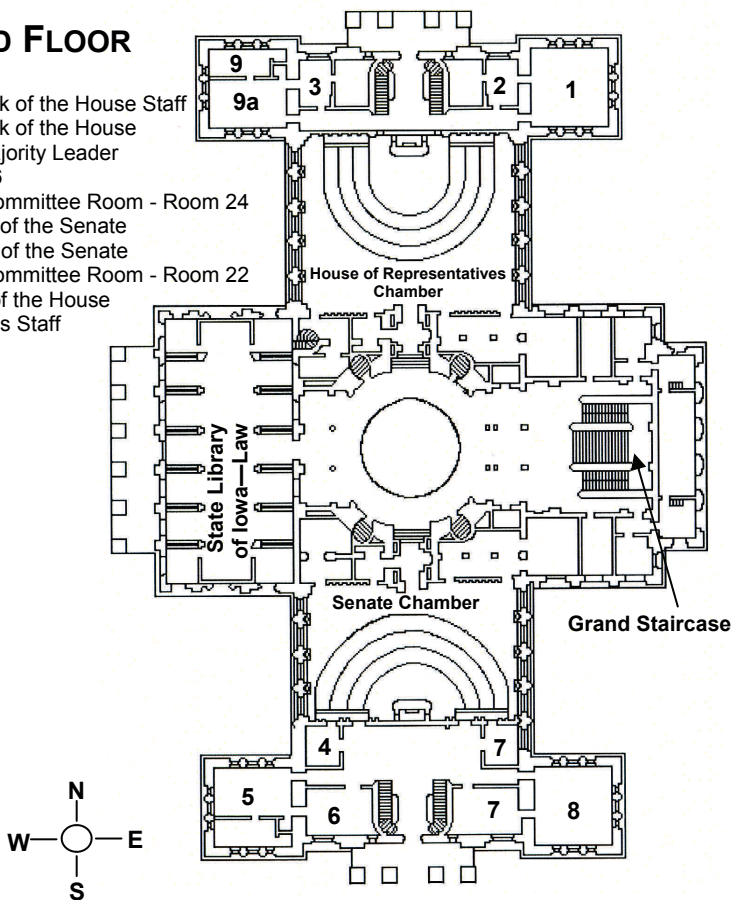
### GROUND FLOOR

- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1) Building Maintenance - G30                                   | 12) Pressroom                    |
| 2) Department of Management (2a, 2b, 2c) - G12, G13, G14, G14.1 | 13) Reagan Room G19              |
| 3) Governor's Office (3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e) - G09, G11            | 14) Room G15a                    |
| 4) Legislative Services Agency Staff - G20                      | 15) Senate Offices Room G17      |
| 5) Legislative Services Agency Staff - G21                      | 16) Statehouse Cafeteria         |
| 6) House Finance and Legislative Facilities Manager - G02       | 17) Vending Area                 |
| 7) Legislative Dining Room - G15                                | 18) Men's Restroom               |
| 8) Legislative Information Office - G16                         | 19) Women's Restroom             |
| 9) Legislative Services Agency - G01                            | 20) House Elevator               |
| 10) LSA Administrative Services - G22                           | 21) Senate Elevator              |
| 11) LSA Legal Services - G23                                    | 22) Tour Guide Station/Gift Shop |

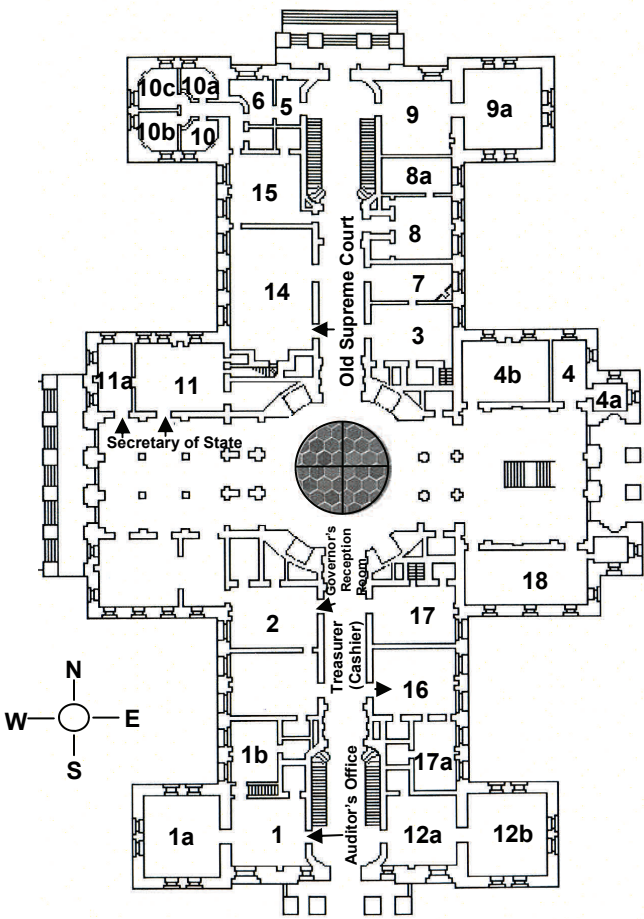
## IOWA STATE CAPITOL—SECOND FLOOR

### SECOND FLOOR

- 1) Chief Clerk of the House Staff  
2) Chief Clerk of the House  
3) House Majority Leader  
4) Room 206  
5) Senate Committee Room - Room 24  
6) President of the Senate  
7) Secretary of the Senate  
8) Senate Committee Room - Room 22  
9) Speaker of the House  
9a) Speaker's Staff



## IOWA STATE CAPITOL—FIRST FLOOR



### FIRST FLOOR

- 1) Auditor's Office\* (1a, 1b) - 111  
2) Governor's Reception Room\* - 109 (within the roped area)  
3) House Committee Chairs - 119  
4) House Republican Caucus (4a, 4b) - 117, 117A, 118  
5) House Majority Offices - 101  
6) House Majority Offices  
7) House Assistant Minority Leader - 120  
8) House Minority Leader (8a) - 121  
9) House Democratic Caucus (9a) - 122  
10) Original Supreme Court Justices Offices (10a, 10b, 10c)  
11) Secretary of State\* (11a) - 105  
12) Senate Democratic Caucus Staff (12a) - 112  
13) Senate Committee Room - 116  
14) Supreme Court\* - 103  
15) Supreme Court Consultation Room - 102  
16) Treasurer (Cashier's Office)\* - 113  
17) Treasurer's Office (17a) - 114  
18) Senate Committee Room - 116

\*Indicates areas the public can enter without a tour guide.

## IOWA STATE CAPITOL—THIRD FLOOR

